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# PUBLIC SCHOOL LIFE



## ETON













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*School Yard*

PUBLIC SCHOOL LIFE

# ETON

By

AN OLD ETONIAN

EDITED AND SPECIALLY ILLUSTRATED BY  
THE SPORT AND GENERAL PRESS AGENCY

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## Preface

THE authorities chiefly consulted in compiling this book are Sir H. C. Maxwell Lyte's *History of Eton College* (Macmillan), Mr. Wasey Sterry's *Annals of Eton College* (Methuen), and Mr. R. A. Austen Leigh's *Illustrated Guide to the Buildings of Eton College* (Spottiswoode), and the author wishes to express his acknowledgments to these gentlemen for the help which he has found in their works.



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# Eton College

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## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTORY

THANKS to the saying which tradition attributes to the great Duke of Wellington, the name and fame of Eton will for ever be inseparably connected with her playing fields. Even in these enlightened days there are here and there to be found parents who would infinitely prefer to see their sons in the Eton eleven than members of the Sixth Form. Whether or not the remark was ever made is beside the question. It has been repeated so often that it has gained the undying life which belongs to all the half-truths which we call proverbs. And yet, if distinctions must be made between the two principal factors of school life, the balance, in the case of Eton, is probably on the side of her intellectual rather than her athletic distinctions. In her time

she has produced a large proportion of the famous cricketers and football players, of the runners and jumpers, and other fine representatives of the physical prowess of England, who undoubtedly helped to win the battle of Waterloo ; who have fought, not without glory, before the walls of Delhi, in the Crimean trenches, in the charge of the Light Brigade, at Isandula, at Ladysmith, at Mafeking, and in numberless other engagements of the wars, little and big, which are part of our island heritage.

But she has, by virtue of her age and position, a higher claim to distinction than the excellence of her sons in feats of bodily skill. After all, organized games are a comparatively modern development, and Eton existed, as a corporate body, long before cricket and football were invented. But always, through all the changes and chances of our national existence for the last four or five hundred years, she has been, and still continues to be, the chief nursery of the great ministers and proconsuls of the Empire, and in that respect holds a unique position amongst the schools of England. All English boys believe, or

ought to believe, that the school to which they belong is the best in the world. If that school does not happen to be Eton they are probably a little inclined to be jealous of the prestige which she enjoys. But in almost all cases, if they were asked to vote for the second best, they would plump for Eton.

There is, in fact, something about Eton which is not to be found elsewhere, something not at all easy to explain or define, which yet may be appreciated and acknowledged, without any disloyalty, by the members of other scholastic foundations. Partly, no doubt, this intangible "something" is due to the fact that a considerable number of the boys, not because of their own individual merit, but by virtue of the wealth and position of their parents, are destined for careers which with ordinary luck will lead them to the highest positions in the State. That in itself is bound to invest a visit to Eton with more than ordinary interest. At "Speeches," for instance, on the Fourth of June, there is a certain piquancy in the thought that, though there may be no Lloyd Georges among these unassuming young heroes in knee-breeches

who nervously stand up to declaim set orations in languages ancient and modern, there are quite likely to be some of the Gladstones and Salisburys and Balfours of the next generation. For probably no other school can point to such an array of great names as are to be found amongst those carved on the walls of the staircase leading to Chambers, in the Sixth Form Room, and in Upper School. And though in these democratic days great names come from Battersea and Wales, as well as from Eton, there is no apparent reason why she should not in this respect continue to hold her own relatively with other schools.

But, after all, great names, even in the political world, in the Church and the Army, and in the learned professions, are not everything. We must look further to find the secret of Eton's peculiar charm. Probably it is not to be accounted for by any one of the various features that go to make up its corporate life, but in the combination of them all—its ancient history and traditions, reflected in its glorious chapel and time-worn school buildings, its wide green playing-fields and immemorial elms, its proud position



*Eton College from the River (showing the Headmaster's, Bursar's, and Vice-provost's houses)*





almost under the shadow of England's most splendid Royal Castle, on the banks of England's fairest stream, and all the thousand and one memories and customs and achievements and aspirations that make it what it is. You cannot put your finger upon any particular fact or feature and say, "This is what Eton means." But you can and do feel, even if you have passed the second decade of your life in some other great school, as you look up at the walls of the chapel, as you tread the cobble-stones of School Yard or the pavements of the Cloisters, or pass the buttress of the chapel and the famous wall that have given to the school its two most distinctive games, that here you have all round you, in a more perfect degree than you have anywhere else, the embodiment of the spirit of English public school life. Both that life and the particular manifestation of it which is to be found at Eton have many faults, and even more critics. Old age has its peculiar vices, or let us rather say failings, as well as its advantages and virtues. And doubtless there are in the Eton system sundry blemishes, deeply rooted in the past, which would not exist in the

ideal school. There are people who hold that its numbers are too large, that it gives too much time to the practice of games and the study of the classics, and too little to the encouragement of habits of thrift and the acquirement of practical utilitarian knowledge; that its Beagles are an abomination; that its low-lying position makes it the peculiar prey of epidemics; and that in many other respects it is high time that it set its house (and its houses) in order. With all such criticisms this book has nothing to do. It will content itself with trying to give a plain and straightforward account of such parts of the life and history of Eton as lend themselves to description.

## CHAPTER II

### HISTORICAL

ON the 11th of October, 1440, was drawn up the First Charter of foundation of "The King's College of Our Lady of Eton." This was the outcome of a desire on the part of Henry VI to found a college similar to that of Winchester, which William of Wykeham had established about the year 1380. There were several Wykehamists in the King's entourage, and they probably suggested the idea to him. He determined, therefore, to found a college to provide yearly a flow of scholars for King's College, Cambridge. In this he imitated the connection between Winchester and New College, Oxford, which had been originated by Wykeham and proved so beneficial to the University. Henry VI's foundation was, however, on a far more modest scale originally than that of Winchester. The charter of October 11th, 1440, provided for a college of a Provost, ten fellows, four clerks, six choristers, a school-master, twenty-five "poor and indigent" scholars, and twenty-five "poor and

infirm" men. An alms-house was also included, but was later done away with. In the same month of the year 1440 the Parish Church of Eton was declared the collegiate Church, and till 1769 the College Chapel served also as the Parish Church.

The next step was to obtain the Pope's sanction, and in January, 1441, three bulls were procured from Eugenius IV containing his support.

Henry Sever was the first provost, but the College had not yet been actually started, and the King had not yet perfected his plan; for after two visits to Winchester he determined to enlarge the College, and in the first statutes (1444), which survived till 1872, the numbers of the foundation were fixed at a Provost, ten fellows, ten chaplains, ten clerks, sixteen choristers, seventy poor and indigent scholars, only thirteen poor and infirm men, a schoolmaster, and an "usher." The "poor and infirm men" were already decreasing in number, and there was soon to be no further provision for them. Except for these, the constitution was now almost identical with that of Winchester.



*Mr. Lubbock's House and part of New Schools  
Tolles*



To provide the College with revenue Henry settled upon it the estates in England of several foreign priories, and also bought for it much land round Eton ; which before the King's deposition were bringing in to the College about £1,500 a year. In 1443 Sever had been succeeded in the provostship by William of Waynflete, who held the post till made Bishop of Winchester in 1447. He was a staunch friend to the College, and did all he could for it during the troublous times following Henry's deposition, when, owing to the confiscation of much of its property, the revenue had fallen from £1,500 to £370.

A certain amount of building had been going on since 1441, and the College Church especially had made good progress, for at the opening of the College by Bekynton, Bishop of Bath and Wells, and the Earl of Suffolk, in December, 1443, Waynflete, the new Provost, swore obedience to the statutes before them in the new Church. But though the building had been begun, the plan had not been finally decided upon. This was not done till 1448. The College was to be built on a magnificent scale, and the Chapel was to be a vast building, and would have



reached far into what is now Keate's Lane, on the opposite side of the High Street. The work, however, was cut short when Henry was deposed, and the present building is only the choir of the original plan. Of the other College buildings, too, all we have of the founder's final plan is probably the Hall, which seems at least to occupy the intended site, though it would appear that it was meant to be built of stone instead of red brick. When the Duke of York seized the throne the Provost and fellows offered him their submission, and asked for his support and protection, which he promised; though he subsequently did not keep his word. This submission of the College to the enemies of their founder seems to have created a precedent, for it became the practice of the Provost and Fellows to ally themselves always to the Sovereign of the time, whether Lancastrian or Yorkist, Protestant or Papist.

Edward IV proceeded to confiscate all the endowments of the College, for it was a Lancastrian foundation. The College was then suppressed as Edward wished to join it to St. George's Chapel at Windsor. He even went so far as to

procure a Bull from the Pope sanctioning this action ; but Provost Westbury produced an agitation against it, and the Bull was repealed, and most of the endowments restored to the College. Matters began to mend for Eton, and the building of the new Chapel (the first had been pulled down) was begun again in 1470. In 1476 the walls and roof were finished, and the windows only needed glazing. But this was only the choir of the Chapel projected by Henry. The nave was never built, and in its place the present small ante-chapel was erected. With Henry VII on the throne, King's College and Eton petitioned the King for the restoration of lands and endowments, seized by Edward IV, and not yet restored, and the revenue of the College so greatly increased that it was found sufficient to provide for the payment of the large amount of building then being carried on. But the College had yet to experience a heavy loss. Henry VIII, on becoming King, showed, it is true, some interest in the College, and paid a visit to Eton ; but he deprived it of the Leper's Hospital and its grounds in St. James's, which had been given

to the provosts as their London house, and in return only gave it lands of very inferior value. The College came safely through the troubles of the Reformation and the reign of Bloody Mary, except for damage done to the interior of the Chapel, including the whitewashing of the frescoes in 1560.

It is soon after this, in 1557, that Commensals, afterwards known as Oppidans, and soon to develop into by far the greater part of the School, are first mentioned. They were to consist of the sons of noblemen and especial friends of the school, and, secondly, of the sons of the lesser gentry. The first class were to have their meals with the usher and chaplain, and were not to exceed twenty in number; the second class were to dine with the scholars and choristers; and the whole were to be taught gratis, though this happy state of affairs does not seem to have lasted long.

At the beginning of the seventeenth century there were over fifty Oppidans at Eton, and the table in the Hall at which they sat had to be lengthened to accommodate their growing numbers. Though the fees which they paid for board

only ranged from 2s. 6d. to the magnificent sum of 3s. 6d. a week, the total expense of their education was apparently, allowing for the increased purchasing power of money, about the same during the time of the Stuarts as it is at the present day. To the same date belonged the Eton Greek Grammar, which was compiled by Camden, headmaster of Westminster, and was used by both Schools till 1650, when it was superseded at Westminster by Busby's Grammar. At Eton, however, it continued to be the standard work till Victorian times. Historically one of the most picturesque incidents of Eton life during this century was the edict by which boys were obliged to smoke in school, as a precaution against the infection of the plague ; and it is on record that one boy was actually flogged for disobeying the order. Another curious medical detail of these times is that in 1686 six scholars were touched for the King's evil. The system of "leaving books" dates from the same period, and still prevails. Towards the end of the half those boys who are leaving go to the Headmaster's Chambers, bearing more or less formal notes of

introduction from their house-master and classical tutor, who may or may not be the same person, and receive from the Headmaster some parting words of friendly advice and a copy of Gray's *Elegy*.

In the eighteenth century the teaching and discipline at Eton were both about as bad as they could be, though there was some improvement during the Headmastership of Dr. Barnard, a fine classic and excellent teacher, during the eleven years of whose reign the numbers of the School rose to 500. His successor, John Foster, had not the same gift of gaining the affection and respect of his pupils, and when he had been Headmaster for three years the whole of the Sixth Form resigned as a protest against the flogging of one of their number. Their example was followed by the Fifth and part of the Fourth, and all these boys, to the number of 120, marched solemnly to Maidenhead, where they spent the night at an inn. Their bill for the night's board and lodging amounted to the modest sum of £55 18s. 3d., which included about £15 for beer, wine, and punch, and £40 for dinner, supper, and breakfast. This was

the famous "rebellion" of 1768, and was followed by another during the time of Foster's successor, in which the "block" was captured and cut to pieces. The future Duke of Wellington, his brother, Lord Wellesley, Porson, the famous scholar, and George Canning were some of the better-known men who were boys at Eton during this period, which was in several respects the beginning of Eton as it now is. The *Microcosm*, the first of Eton's newspapers, and therefore the lineal ancestor of the *Eton College Chronicle*, was published in 1786, George Canning being one of the editors. Cricket matches against other schools were also started. In 1796 Eton played Westminster on Hounslow Heath, and were beaten, but four years later turned the tables, winning the match, which was played on the old Lord's ground, by an innings and 128 runs. Only one other match took place between the two Schools, which was also won by Eton. The first Eton and Harrow match, in which Lord Byron was one of the Harrow eleven, was played four years later, in 1805, and resulted in a victory for Eton by an innings. About the same time rowing at Eton also began to be

carried on in an organized form, though it was not recognized by the authorities. A ten-oared *Monarch* was one of the boats that took part in the procession of boats on the Fourth of June, but there was no formally constituted Eight till 1820, and it was only in 1829 that the first race against Westminster was rowed. It is odd to think that, in strong contrast to modern ideas of sportsmanship, it was part of the game in those days to foul the other boat as much as possible.

Twenty years before this John Keate, the most famous of Eton's Headmasters, began his long reign, which lasted for a quarter of a century. Whether he flogged as often as Busby at Westminster is a moot point, but at all events he established an unbeaten record at Eton in this respect. On one occasion he flogged ninety boys in one day, on another several who were about to be confirmed because their confirmation tickets were like the tickets usually presented by those against whom some complaint had been made, on another he boasted that he had just had the honour of flogging a major in His Majesty's Army. His victims, on the other hand, were never backward in



*The School Library*





carrying the war into their enemy's camp. Amongst other little diversions they locked the door of his schoolroom, they put cobbler's wax on his chair, they broke his desk into smithereens, and they pelted him with rotten eggs. But in spite of the violence of the constant warfare between Keate and his boys, he somehow contrived to win their respect, and though he started no reforms in the system of teaching, he did establish some semblance of discipline, and that, in those days, was the thing which was most needed in the School, so that beyond any question he must be looked on as one of Eton's greatest benefactors. The institution by Charles Fox Townshend in 1811 of the "Eton Society," more generally known as "Pop," and the foundation, in 1829, of the Newcastle scholarship by the Duke of Newcastle, were, apart from this notable reform in the matter of discipline, the most striking and beneficial events during his tenure of office.

Not long after Keate's resignation in 1834, a much greater change took place in the general complexion of Eton life than any that had been known in the whole previous history of the School.

Dr. Hawtrey's Headmastership, that is to say, marked the parting of the ways. In 1830 a trenchant article had been published in the *Edinburgh Review* drawing particular attention to the vicious circle by which the scholars at King's College, Cambridge, chosen from among the Eton boys, not by merit but by seniority, became fellows of the College, without being required to pass the University examinations because of the profound store of knowledge which they were assumed to have brought with them from Eton, and then in due course went back to their old school as masters. He further found fault with the Eton Latin and Greek Grammars, and pointed out that the King's scholars were not even good classics, besides being absolutely ignorant in mathematics, science, and modern history and languages. Fagging, bullying, flogging, and the conduct of the Chapel services also fell under the ban of his displeasure, as well as the general moral discipline of the School, and he suggested a Royal Commission of inquiry as the only possible remedy. Hawtrey had already made up his mind to initiate reforms in many directions,

and, having drawn up a scheme of the changes which he considered desirable, submitted it to Keate for his approval. Instead of himself teaching the Sixth and the Upper Division of the Fifth, amounting to 190 boys, he moved from the Upper School to the room next door, where he took only the Sixth Form and the twelve top boys in the Fifth. He increased the number of masters, made "Trials," the examination at the end of each half, a reality instead of a farce, revised the School text-books, and greatly improved the teaching of mathematics and modern languages.

Next, as soon as he was able, he set to work to improve the conditions of the life of the unfortunate Collegers. What with gross bullying, excessive flogging, bad food, overcrowding, and uncleanly habits, the existence in College, and especially in Long Chamber, was a grave scandal, of which, to his eternal credit, he made a summary end. He also declined to countenance the ridiculous sham by which he and his colleagues were supposed to be in a state of blissful ignorance of the fact that Eton boys were in the habit of rowing on the river. The

immediate effect of this courageous defiance of tradition was that it was now possible for the school authorities to forbid any boys going on the river unless they could swim, since which innovation deaths from drowning have practically ceased to be. In 1846, supported by a majority of the masters, he showed an even bolder disregard for the probable prejudices of past and present members of the school, and abolished the celebration of "Montem," a picturesque old custom which had so degenerated as to have become a public scandal, undisciplined, disorderly, and highly immoral. Since Hawtrey's time, under Dr. Goodford (who started the Army class and did away with the Oppidan dinner, instead of which he allowed the eight to row at Henley), and afterwards, under Dr. Hornby and Dr. Warre, and the present Headmaster, Mr. Edward Lyttelton, further reforms have been carried out in the curriculum and constitution of the School, which, under these distinguished men, has shown that it is not afraid or ashamed to march with the times, and so to maintain its proud position among the Public Schools of England.



*College Hall*



## CHAPTER III

### THE BUILDINGS

THE College buildings, as they are, are very different from what the Founder intended them to be. Henry's plan was on a vast and splendid scale, providing for a Chapel of which the present building was only to be the choir, a large cloister where the School Yard now is, and a large quadrangle on the site of the present cloisters, with a grand gatehouse facing the playing fields on the North, which was to be the entrance to the College. On the South side of this quadrangle the Hall was to stand. The present building is probably the only part of this plan besides the Chapel which was completed. Even this, however, was finished in red brick, though the Founder it seems intended stone to be the material used, for the South side of Hall is of stone up to the windows, at which point the stone is superseded by brick. The Hall is approached from Cloisters by a flight of stone steps, and by wooden steps from Brewhouse Yard. It is entered through doors in a modern oak screen, above



which is a gallery. The walls are panelled to a considerable height in dark oak, and above the panelling are hung many portraits of distinguished sons of the School. There are three fireplaces, and a fine oriel window in the South-west corner. At the South-west corner of the quadrangle, and extending along the West façade, the Provost's Lodge was to stand, and for some time this part of the building was used by the Provosts. Now, however, the Lodge is in the North-west corner of cloisters. Till the middle of the eighteenth century the cloisters consisted of a ground floor and only one storey. But in 1758 an upper storey was added to the North and South sides, but not to the West side. On the South side was the Hall, in front of which a Library in the style of the day had been built earlier in the eighteenth century, in place of the original South side of the cloisters. The open space in the middle is occupied by a grass lawn with a pump in the centre. At the corners of these buildings are small square towers, and entrance to the cloisters is gained from the School Yard by an archway under a large tower on their Western side. It is called Lupton's



*Cloisters*



Tower, after the man of that name who was Provost from 1504 to 1535. Round the inside of the North and East sides, and half the West side of cloisters, and on the first floor, is a gallery, filled with many interesting prints and portraits of famous men connected with the College. The other half of the West side is occupied by Election Chamber and Election Hall. On the South side is the College Library, which contains many fine old and valuable books, and some rare and perfect specimens of ancient seals. The Headmaster's house occupies the North-east corner. The Vice-Provost lives in the South-east corner.

The School Yard is a rectangular space bounded by the Chapel on the South, by Long Chamber and the Master in College's Lodgings on the North, on the East by the West side of cloisters, and on the West by Upper School. In the centre stands the statue of the Founder by Bird, set up in 1719.

Till the middle of the seventeenth century it was bounded on the West only by a high wall with a gateway in the middle. Then Allestree, the Provost, erected a two-storeyed building where the wall had

been. Entrance to the School Yard was by a gateway under this building, which, however, was so badly built that by 1699 it had become positively dangerous. It was therefore pulled down and in its place the present Upper School was built. It is long and beautifully proportioned, with tall diamond-paned windows, and a stone balustrade running along the base of the roof. Half the width of the building on the inside of the ground floor is occupied by a colonnade, with rounded arches. The upper storey contains Upper School—which takes up the greater part of the building—and the Headmaster's room, where Sixth Form is taken, and where the block is kept and "swiping" takes place. The inside of Upper School is panelled half-way up the walls, and the panelling is covered with the carved names of boys who have left the School. Round the walls above the panelling are a number of busts of famous Etonians, and also of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert. Wooden staircases lead to the upper storey at either end of the building.

A long, low structure, consisting of ground floor and upper storey, bounds the North side of the School Yard. In this



*Upper School*



building are contained Long Chamber, with the Headmaster's Chamber and Lower School beneath it, and to the east of Long Chamber the lodgings of the Master in College, and part of the Provost's Lodge. Lower School, originally one room, is now divided by wooden partitions into three schoolrooms. At the East end of lower School is a passage called Fourth Form passage, connecting the School Yard with Weston's Yard. From this passage a winding stairway leads to Long Chamber, and on the further side of the passage is another schoolroom, in which the Third Form are taken.

In Long Chamber there are now fifteen cubicles, called "stalls." It used to be considerably larger, but was divided by a partition, on one side of which the "stalls" were erected, while the other side was used for rooms for the older Collegers, with a passage running between them. A door at the East end of Long Chamber connects it with the rooms of the Master in College, and on the left of the door there is a passage leading into New Buildings. This wing was erected in 1844-1846, and was added to in more recent years. It runs in a Northerly direction



from the East end of Long Chamber in front of the Provost's Lodge, and tones in with the rest of the College fairly well. For some time the School Library was housed here, till it found another home in New Schools, whence it has now been removed to the Library in the School Hall. The open gravel space to the West of New Buildings is called Weston's Yard, from the house in the Northern corner called Weston's. Between the end of New Buildings and Weston's is an archway leading into the Playing Fields. On the South Weston's Yard is bounded by Lower School and Long Chamber, and on the West by a long range of gabled houses called Savile House. This was built by Savile when Provost of Eton for his printing-press, and was till recent years used as the Headmaster's lodgings. A narrow strip of garden and a high brick wall divides Savile House from Weston's Yard, and an archway adjoining it leads into the Slough Road. On the opposite side of the road and immediately behind Savile House are the New Schools, built in the sixties. They are of red brick, and in more or less the same style as the New



*Gateway into Weston's Yard*



Buildings of College, with a cloister on the ground floor. They are divided into numerous schoolrooms, and consist of a one-storeyed block of buildings facing North and South, with a tower at each end, and an archway in the centre. In the Eastern tower are several small music rooms. The Western tower is used as an observatory. From the Western end of the central block runs a wing in a South-easterly direction. The ground floor is used for schoolrooms, the upper storey till this year housed the School Library. This wing is continued on the North side of the central block for some distance, and is also divided into a number of schoolrooms, chiefly mathematical. At right angles to this wing and running out to the Slough road is the boys' house now occupied by Mr. Kindersley. Thus a space is formed bounded on three sides by buildings and on the fourth by the Slough Road, from which it is divided by a low wall and iron railings. The space is used as a parade-ground for the Eton College O.T.C. In the South-east corner adjoining the New Schools is the armoury. There is another gravelled space on the South side of New Schools, called Cannon

Yard, from the cannon which stands in the centre of it; an iron railing with three gateways divides it from the road.

On the other side of the road, opposite the archway into Weston's Yard, is the School Hall, put up in memory of Old Etonians who lost their lives in the Boer War of 1899-1902. It consists of a long high hall, and an octagonal library surmounted by a dome. It is built of stone and brick of a curious and almost mauve colour. New red brick, it was thought, would be too startling, and take too long to tone down. A special brick was therefore prepared intended to be as like old brick as possible, but the attempt failed: the rosy colour was not obtained, and the present nondescript hue was the result.

The Hall runs straight back from the road. It is 140 ft. long and 52 ft. broad. The front is richly carved, and topped by a stone balustrade. A stone porch, supported by two pillars, gives entrance into the Hall. To the West of the Hall itself stands the Library, an octagonal building with a lead dome and lantern. It is rather squat, but a high dome would have dwarfed all the surrounding buildings

and looked very much out of place. It is interesting to note that the original but rejected design for the College Library in the eighteenth century was for an octagonal building with a domed roof.

Behind the Library a smaller room, running parallel to the Hall, is used as a museum to house the collection of the late Major Myers. Here, also, is a bust of Dr. Warre, and his portrait by Mr. Sargent. The Hall is entered from a low "crush-hall," in the form of a colonnade with a vaulted roof supporting the gallery of the Hall. In this crush-hall are bronze statuettes representing the Virtues. A stone stairway in the left-hand corner leads to the gallery, and three doors opposite the entrance from the road open into the Hall, while a fourth door on the right-hand side leads to the Library. The Hall is a magnificent room of fine proportions. The arched ceiling, supported by tall double pillars between the windows, is of richly-moulded plaster of good design. In the roof above the ceiling are powerful electric fans, which draw the stale air up from the hall through cleverly concealed ventilation holes; another fan below the floor draws

fresh air into the room. The spaces below the windows and between the pillars are to be filled with panelling, and below the centre window on the East side will be inscribed the names of Old Etonians who lost their lives during the Boer War.

Dividing the Hall from the crush-hall is a fine carved oak screen, presented by Old Etonians of Miss Evans' House in memory of their dame; and on this screen is hung her portrait by Mr. Sargent. At the farther end of the Hall is an apse in which the organ will be placed, but at present it is occupied by a platform and tiers of seats used by the Eton College Musical Society for their concerts. In the centre of the right-hand side of the Hall a door leads into a passage on the other side of which is the Museum. From the North-eastern corner of the Museum a stone cloister runs round the outside of the Library and opens into the Slough Road. The Hall itself seats 1,100, and with its numerous exits can be quickly and easily emptied. The Library provides room for sixty. There is a large circular desk in the middle of the room, and round the walls are numerous other desks. The ceiling is supported by pillars,



*Mr. Conybeare's House, and the School Hall*





between which are the oak book-cases. An oak gallery runs round the building, about half-way up the walls. It consists of balconies between the pillars, in which are bookshelves and chairs. Each balcony is more or less shut off from its neighbour, and will only hold two boys, so that an opportunity for quiet uninterrupted reading is afforded to those who wish for it. Access to the gallery is gained by a small staircase in the South-western corner of the Library.

The whole collection of buildings, which are in the English Renaissance style, are, it must be confessed, a little out of keeping with the rest of the School buildings, and present from the colour of the bricks employed rather a faded and indefinite appearance. But the architect was placed in a very difficult position, for the site was of a very inconvenient shape, as from a fairly wide frontage it runs back into a point. The frontage, however, was not wide enough to admit of a building of the same character as Upper School, which would at the same time have been large enough to hold the whole School. A storm of rather unreasoning criticism of the exterior was

at first raised, but this has now died a natural death, as people have come to recognize the difficulty presented by the site and to appreciate the fine interior. Funds are still needed for the completion of the fittings inside, such as panelling and chairs for the Hall; but it has been proposed that boys on leaving the School should present a chair, and designs are accordingly being drawn up for oak chairs thus to be given, as is the custom in some of the other public schools.

On the South side of School Yard stands the Chapel. It was intended only to be the choir of a magnificent church. But King Henry VI's deposition cut off funds, and the nave was never built. In its place an ante-Chapel was put up, with entrances in the North and South sides. The Chapel is built in the late Perpendicular style, and is lit by eighteen windows, eight on each side, in the bays formed by the buttresses, a large East window and a small window at the West end above the organ. The walls are surmounted by battlements, and at the top of the buttresses are pinnacles, which appear to have been added between the years 1622 and 1688. For in a print

*College Library*





of the year 1622 the Chapel is represented without any of these pinnacles, though they are shown in a print of 1688.

At the North-eastern and South-eastern corners of the Chapel are two small towers, capped by wooden cupolas put up in the seventeenth century. The floor of the Chapel is raised about 13ft. from the ground, in order to be well above the floods with which Eton is from time to time visited. Entrance is gained from the ante-Chapel, up to which two staircases lead, one on the North from the cloister under Upper School, another on the South from the Long Walk. This is the space between the High Street and the Chapel. There is another entrance, the North door, with a flight of stone steps leading up to it from School Yard. The door is in a small annexe jutting out from the Chapel, which, besides the porch, contains the Vestry. Beyond that is Lupton's Chapel, small and richly ornamented, with a groined ceiling. It is divided from the Chapel by a carved stone screen. A window fills most of the outer wall, and in it the arms of Provost Lupton, the builder of this Chapel, are portrayed. The names of the Old Etonian officers

who gave their lives in the South African War are inscribed on a brass tablet on the West Wall. The interior of the Chapel itself is very fine. Between each window and its neighbour are fine piers running up to the roof, which greatly enhance the beauty of the building. From the top of each pier spring wooden arches which support the roof. The whole roof is of wood, and it seems the Founder always intended it to be so, and not a stone vault as at King's College, Cambridge. The organ stands on a modern stone screen in the arch between the ante-Chapel and the Chapel itself. It has occupied many positions, but seems now to have found a permanent resting place. The present organ is of beautiful tone, and is electrically worked. In the Western half of the Chapel the carved oak seats are set in tiers parallel to the walls, and do not, as in most Churches, face the East end. These rows of seats culminate in stalls with richly carved canopies rising into small pinnacles, that reach to the bases of the windows. Most of these stalls are adorned by small brasses, with the arms and names of the Old Etonians to whose memory they



*The Chapel from the River*





are dedicated inscribed upon them. The Provost, Vice-Provost, Headmaster, and the Lower Master have special stalls; the Provost and Vice-Provost those nearest the archway into the ante-Chapel; the Headmaster and Lower Master have two nearer the East end. These stalls and seats, rising one above the other, only extend half the length of the building. Beyond the North door, on the Eastern side of which and close to it is the pulpit, the seats, though still in rows parallel to the walls, are not set in tiers. On the South wall, straight opposite the North door, hangs Watts's "Sir Galahad," presented to the School by the artist. Behind the altar, below the East window, hangs a piece of tapestry by William Morris, from designs of Burne-Jones, the gift of Mr. Luxmoore. When the new altar was put in and the East end of Chapel repaved with black and white marble, as a memorial to Old Etonians killed in South Africa, two flanking pieces of tapestry were added; the whole represents the Adoration of the Magi.

The ante-Chapel is lit by five windows, one on the North, one on the South, and

three on the West. They are filled with stained glass, the Northern and Southern ones to the memory of Old Etonians who died in the Crimean War. On the walls are painted their arms and names. On the organ-screen are the arms of Old Etonians who fell in the Boer War of 1880-1881 and in the Zulu and Afghan Wars.

Between the East end of Chapel and the South West corner of Cloisters is a gateway leading from School Yard into Brewhouse Yard. In a building in this yard behind College Hall the College used to brew its own ale. At the South end of Brewhouse Yard is an exceedingly pretty archway which used to connect Mr. Kindersley's house, which was burned down, with another small house now occupied by Masters; it leads to Baldwin's Shore, a small road leaving the High Street just on the Eton side of Barnes Pool Bridge. There are several houses in this road; a very old house at the corner is used by Masters, then there is a large and ugly Boys' house, and then a small house called Baldwin's End, of red brick, with lead rainwater heads of exquisite workmanship. Just beyond this is the arch leading into Brewhouse Yard.



*Interior of the Chapel*



Dividing the Long Walk above referred to from the High Street is a long low wall called "Long Wall," running in front of the ante-Chapel and Upper School. This is much used by members of the Eton Society to sit on. They alone are privileged to do so. Opposite the ante-Chapel Keate's Lane runs down from the High Street in a Westerly direction. On either side are boys' houses, and at the corner of Keate's Lane and the Dorney Road, which runs Northwards, and in which are several boys' houses and the old Fives Courts, is Keate's House, named after the famous Headmaster of that name. South Meadow Lane continues Keate's Lane down to the meadows. On the right-hand side are Science Schools, the Music Schools, and one or two Classical and History School-rooms. On the left are the Queen's Schools, and beyond them Lower Chapel; beyond that again is a boys' house at present occupied by Mr. R. S. de Havilland.

Queen's Schools are of red brick in the same style as New Schools, with a brick cloister running round the ground floor. The buildings form two sides of a square,

and in the Eastern corner is a stone laid by Queen Victoria in 1889 in memory of the Jubilee of 1887. These Schools include several schoolrooms, a large lecture-room, a Laboratory, recently added, a Drawing School, and a Museum, in which are geological, archæological, and natural history specimens. A new wing, lately added, is filled with excellently arranged stands of wild birds. Lower Chapel runs parallel to South Meadow Lane, and forms the third side of the Square. It is a simple building of rather too yellow stone. The windows are by the late Mr. Kempe, and very good.

The fourth side of the square is left open, and the space enclosed by Lower Chapel and Queen's School is occupied by a sunken grass lawn.

Returning to the High Street, in the middle of the space where the High Street branches to the right into the Slough Road and to the left towards Common Lane, is a large gas lamp of stone and iron-work, called The Burning Bush. Common Lane leads down to a common. On either side are boarding-houses. Half-way down on the right is the Gymnasium, lately erected, just before which a lane leads

*Some of the Boys' Houses*







off to the right to the Fives Courts. At the end of Common Lane is the "Savile Press," the printing works of Messrs. Spottiswoode, the School booksellers, some new schoolrooms, and a nondescript building called the School of Mechanics, in which are a workshop and schoolrooms, and the drill-hall of the E.C.O.T.C.

## CHAPTER IV

### THE DAY'S ROUTINE

THE School is divided into the Upper and the Lower School. Those in the Lower School, Lower Boys as they are called, have rather different times from the rest of the School. All, however, are called in the two Winter Halfs at 6.45, and have to be in School at 7.30; and in the Summer Half at 6.15 and must be in School at 7 o'clock. Hot coffee or cocoa and buns or biscuits are provided in the Houses before Early School, but many go to Little Brown's, one of the "Sock Shops," as such shops are called, and there partake of hot coffee and piping hot penny buns, split and buttered. So alluring do these prove, that they are the cause of many a punishment for a late appearance in Early School.

Early School lasts for fifty minutes; then the boys go back to their houses for breakfast at 8.20 in winter, and 7.50 in summer. Breakfast in the House dining-rooms need not be attended, boys being allowed to provide for themselves at Sock Shops if so inclined. Chapel in

winter and summer is at 9.15, bells beginning at 9.5. The bell is slow and monotonous, but at 9.15 breaks into a short gallop just before ending, as if for an ironical warning to laggards, too late to be of any use. In the summer, half the long time between breakfast and Chapel is often used by Masters for Pupil Room, where they hear the Lower Boys' construes or correct verses.

Lower Boys, and a few of the lowest in Fifth Form, go to Lower Chapel. Those in the Upper School go to College Chapel. After Chapel—which lasts about fifteen minutes—there is School till 10.30, then an interval follows, generally employed for refreshment (which is provided in many houses, though the Sock Shops claim the majority of boys), and after the interval School goes on again from 10.45 till 11.45. The same interval employed by the boys in the pleasures of the Sock Shop is spent more arduously by the Masters in "Chambers." That is to say, they meet in the Headmaster's Chambers and discuss the boys and their work. A division master can here complain of a boy's behaviour or work to his tutor or the Headmaster, and can generally tell

tutors how their pupils are getting on. At 11.45 School for the morning ends. This time from 11.45 till dinner, which takes place at 1.45 in winter and 1.30 in summer, is called "after twelve." Tutors are always in Pupil Room, commonly called "puppy-hole," and all Lower Boys have to go in and prepare construes, do Greek derivations (known by Lower Boys as "dags" or "derriwags"), Latin exercises and Latin verses, etc., for their division masters, under the supervision of their tutor. A House Master is not necessarily a boy's tutor (*i.e.*, classical tutor); a boy may have quite a different master for his tutor. This is nearly always the case when the House Master is a Mathematical or Science Master. In such cases the House Master should be called "my dame" by the boys in his house, who should only call their classical tutor "my tutor"; but this custom has of late years been dying out, and all House Masters are now known as "my tutor." On Thursday mornings after twelve boys in the Lower and Middle Divisions of the Fifth Form (called Lower and Middle Div.), have to go into Pupil Room and do verses, set them on Tuesdays



*The "Sock Shop"*



by their Division Master. There they must stay till they are finished, and that, too, in a manner satisfactory to their tutor, who can "tear them over," or "rip" them if untidy or carelessly done, or, if very well done, can exempt the author of the "copy" from copying them out. In these cases he writes N.N. (need not) above his signature at the base of the copy. All copies must be signed by the Tutor, or the Division Master will not accept them.

Upper Division and First Hundred do their verses in their rooms, and not in Pupil Room, but must have them looked over and corrected by their tutors before "showing them up" to their Division Master.

After twelve, too, "tickets" given to boys by Division Masters for bad behaviour or idleness and other delinquencies, must be brought into Pupil Room and shown to the tutor for his signature; a punishment usually accompanies the ticket, and this must be done at once in Pupil Room and signed by the tutor. Punishments inflicted by the Headmaster for breach of School rules must also be done in Pupil Room.



After twelve, in the ordinary course of events, on other days than Tuesdays, and perhaps Wednesdays as well if the copy of verses is long, is free for the Fifth Form and First Hundred, unless they have "extras" in any special subject. It can be employed as each boy wishes, in work, in walking "down town" (as this degenerate generation calls the walking "up town" of our fathers), or in football in the Michaelmas Half, or Fives, or Racquets, or in just kicking a ball about with one or two others, which is called "kick-about." Dinner, in the Houses, must be attended by all, unless leave is given by the House Master. After dinner Lower Boys are free till about 4 o'clock in the winter half, when they have School again till 5.45, with a short break at 5 o'clock. The free time is usually spent in football, but can be used as desired. Fifth Form go into School at 2.30 till 3.30. They are then free till 5 o'clock, when there is school till 5.45. At 5.45 on these whole-school days is lock-up. Boys then have tea in their Houses, where an "Order" (bread, milk, tea, and butter) is provided for each boy. Anything extra he must get for himself.

The majority get up "hot teas" (consisting of buttered eggs or sausages, and the like) from the Sock Shops. Boys generally "mess" together in twos, threes, or fours. All those who have been in Fifth Form for six halves may fag. Everybody is a fag for his first year, and as long as he remains a Lower Boy. A few of the boys highest up in the house have tea-fags of their own. The Captain of the House, and the Captain of the football or the Captain of the cricket each have two or three fags, the remaining fags being distributed among those who are highest in School order in the House after the Captain. The tea-fags have to make toast and, perhaps, boil eggs, and run errands connected with their fag-master's tea.

On half-holiday afternoons there is absence at 2.15. Absence is a roll-call, most of the School being called over in School Yard by several Masters, but the lowest divisions are called over in Cannon Yard. When, however, lock-up is at 4.30 this absence is discontinued so that there may be more time for games between dinner and lock-up. Tea always takes place directly after lock-up, so that as lock-up

gets earlier there is a long uninterrupted spell of time for work or reading.

After tea there is generally Pupil Room for Lower Boys till 7 or 7.30. Fifth Form are free except for an hour on two or perhaps three nights in the week, when they do Private Business, usually called "Private," with their tutor. This consists of reading Martial, Vergil, Homer, and other classical authors, for an hour. Passages are usually set for each boy to prepare.

At 8.45 or 9 o'clock—the time varies in different Houses—comes supper, at which no one need be present, unless he so wishes. Soup, or cold meat, and fruit or cheese, is usually provided. Prayers are read by the House Master at 9 o'clock or 9.15, and from Prayers all the boys go to their own rooms, in which they must now remain. Lower Boys must be in bed at 9.30, those in Fifth Form at 10 o'clock, after which time no light may be left lit. Between Prayers and bed-time the House Master goes round the House and visits a number of the boys and talks with them for a short time. He can thus acquire an intimacy with the boys which otherwise would not be possible,



*The Boys Collecting in School Yard for "Absence"*



In the Summer Half the afternoon is divided up differently. On whole school-days Lower Boys go into School at 2.15 till 3 o'clock. They are then free till 5 o'clock. They have tea just before going into School. There are nets for the First games of Lower Sixpenny between 3.15 and 5 o'clock. The Fifth Form do not go into School till 3.45, and the time is used by the Dry Bobs for nets. They stay in School till 4.30, and go into School again from 5 o'clock till 5.45. In the interval they have tea. Lock-up gets as late as 8.45, and House nets and other nets go on "after six." Supper and Prayers and bed-time are the same as in winter.

During the Michaelmas and Lent Halfs in the evenings there are numerous lectures, many of which are illustrated by lantern slides, to which any boy who has a free time can go. Occasional concerts are also given. The School Hall is used for the purpose, so that greater numbers can now attend than was possible before. Dr. C. H. Lloyd, the Precentor, also gives two or three Organ Recitals in College Chapel during the

half, which are always very well attended and very welcome.

On Sundays the times of getting up and of dinner, etc., vary considerably from those in use during the week. Boys are not called till 8.15. Breakfast preceded by prayers read by the House Master is at 9 o'clock. Chapel is at 10.40, bells beginning at 10.30. It lasts till about 12.15. Dinner is at 2 o'clock. Between breakfast and Chapel and Chapel and dinner the House Master has private business with different sets of pupils. Part of the Bible, or Milton's Poems, are the favourite subjects.

There is evening Chapel at 5 o'clock till about 6 o'clock. Attendance at both services is compulsory. After Chapel comes tea, and in winter, lock-up. Supper, prayers, and bed-time are the same as usual. Sunday is not absolutely free of work. The boys in each division are set "Sunday Questions" on the Scriptures, and have to prepare a certain passage of the New Testament in Greek. These may be done whenever a boy chooses. The rest of the time is generally occupied in walking with a friend.

There are numerous School Societies,

among which are the Eton Society, the Musical Society, the Shakespeare, the Essay, and the Photographic Societies.

The Eton Society was founded in 1811 by Charles Fox Townshend as a social and debating club. It has had various meeting places ; and the fact that one of these was in a room behind a Sock Shop is generally supposed to account for the name "Pop" given to the Society, "popina" being the Latin word for a food shop. The Society has now got a room behind the "Christopher," in which they meet for debates every Friday evening, and which is also generally used as a club room, where the papers may be read and letters written. The Society consists usually of twenty-eight members, though the number frequently rises to thirty. Elections by ballot are held whenever a vacancy occurs. Several School officials are members of the Society, *ex officio*. They are the Captain of the School, the Captain of the Oppidans, the Captain of the XI, the Captain of the Boats, and the Keeper of the Field. At least five members of the Sixth Form must be in the Society. The entrance fee is £1, and the subscription is £1 a half.



Members of the Eton Society have many privileges. They all wear stick-up collars, and may carry a button-hole and have their umbrellas furled up, and wear patent leather shoes, and black double-breasted or coloured waistcoats, and white waistcoats in the evening. When wearing an overcoat they can have the collar turned down. All who can wear stick-up collars, that is, besides "Pop," Sixth Form, the XI, the Eight, and Upper Boat choices, can also wear their great-coat collars turned down, but it is the custom for the rest of the School to turn up the collars of their great coats, and everyone who is not in "Pop" carries his umbrella unfurled. Instead of the stiff white shirt which is the regulation for other boys, members of "Pop" may wear soft white shirts. They may also walk arm in arm with each other, and with people who are not in the Society.

Nobody who has not reached Upper Division, or the Second Division of Army Class, is eligible for "Pop." It is a great honour to be elected into the Eton Society, and it is one of the happiest moments of a boy's school life when he hears of his election. Members are looked



*The Fourth of June : Eton Boys sitting on the Wall*



up to with awe by Lower Boys, and command considerable respect. They can by their example and influence to a great extent control the tone and public opinion of the School. Occasionally this is taken advantage of by the Headmaster, with reference to matters of School discipline, when he does not wish to take official action, but prefers to leave the matter in the hands of the boys. At School matches in the Winter Half several members of "Pop," arm in arm, walk along the side line and keep the boys who are looking on from encroaching on the field of play. When a rouge has been scored, also, they keep the crowd of boys back behind the goal posts so that the players may not be hindered in any way. In summer they may wear Panama hats "in change," and in the Lent Half are usually the only ones to go down to play Fives in blazers. Members of "Pop" in the Athletic Committee may walk about in change with peculiar knobbed canes. At football matches they use these to remind boys encroaching on the ground to step back. This cane members of "Pop" may use to inflict punishments on Lower and other boys who deserve it. Members of

the Society may fag any Lower Boy of any house, even if he be outside his house, which usually is not permissible.

The type of boy elected into the Society is a good athlete, who is also considered a good fellow all round. Once elected he tends to become absorbed into a small clique and not to associate so much with people who are not members of the Society. It forms, in fact, a very exclusive clique, the more so because many boys not in "Pop" do not like to associate too much with those who are in the Society for fear of it being thought that they are trying to secure election by making friends with the members. This exclusiveness is also accounted for by the very fact of their various privileges (such as being the only boys allowed to sit on the Long Wall), which naturally throw them very much together and tend to make a gulf between them and the rest of the School.

The Musical Society meets on Thursday evenings throughout the Half, and practises music for its concert given at the end of the Michaelmas and Lent Halfs. It meets also on Sunday evenings for the singing of sacred music.



*Eton Territorials camping on Farnborough Common : Washing up after Dinner*



The Shakespeare Society meets once a week and reads plays by Shakespeare. The Photographic Society holds an exhibition in Upper School on St. Andrew's Day and the following days, while the Scientific Society has a conversazione in the Lent Half.

There is only one regular Eton paper. It is the *Eton College Chronicle*, which appears weekly, and is edited by members of the School. It always contains a leader, and gives accounts of the lectures and games and School matches, etc., that have gone on during the week. Short paragraphs containing items of news relating to Eton or Old Etonians are given in a column headed *Etoniana*. The *Chronicle* is the butt of the wit of every editor of ephemeral papers brought out at Eton. Of these most are bad, but some are excellent, as, for instance, the *Amphibian*, and the *Outsider*, brought out a few years ago by a numerous staff of editors, including some brilliant scholars and wits.

The E.C.O.T.C. is a very smart body, five hundred strong. Only boys who are 5ft. 3in. in height and fifteen years of age can join, so that it will be seen that



five hundred is a very high percentage of the number of boys who are eligible for enrolment in the corps.

The Corps has increased tremendously in popularity and prestige in recent years. It is now taken very seriously by members of the Corps itself and by the War Office, and most boys take a great and intelligent interest in the work done. There are now weekly parades all through the year, and about three field days in the Michaelmas and Lent Halfs, but none in the Summer. At the end of the Summer Half the Corps goes into camp for eight days, at one of the Public School camps, and great keenness is shown by all ranks. It was raised by Dr. Warre in 1860, and was the first Public School Volunteer Corps.

## CHAPTER V

### GAMES

ETON has two games of football peculiar to itself which are played during the Michaelmas Schooltime. They are the Field Game and the Wall Game. The Field Game is played by the whole school. Only the Collegers and a few Oppidans play the Wall Game. The Field Game is played on a large ground, The Field, where School matches are played, also called Sixpenny (in Summer), and the Timbralls. It is about a hundred and forty yards long by over ninety broad. The goals are small, similar to those employed at Hockey. It is played by teams of eleven, consisting of three backs, called "behinds," and eight forwards, four of whom make up the "bully," a formation slightly similar to, though much smaller than, the scrum at Rugby football. A "bully" is formed in the middle of the ground, to start the game, and also whenever the ball is kicked out, opposite the place where it crossed the line and some way in from the line. A bully also is the penalty for the breach of

certain rules, and is in these cases formed at the spot where the breach occurred. If a rule is broken, the opposite side must appeal to the umpire, who does not, as in Association Football, automatically give decisions. The two bullies "form down" against each other, and the ball, which is smaller than that used in Association Football, is rolled in by one of the "corners." Each side takes it in turn to put their "heads down." This is the position of advantage, as the object of those taking part in the bully is to push forward, taking the ball along with them towards the opponents' goal; and it is easier to push with the head lowered. Outside the bully stand the other forwards, three beside it, and one at a small distance behind it. When the ball comes out from the bully these other forwards make for it, the one who gets the ball being closely followed or backed up by the others, who try to take it on, when he is deprived of it. No passing is allowed and no handling of the ball. The game, which is a very fast one, affords opportunities for splendid kicking by the behinds and fast close dribbling by the bully, for individual brilliance and for



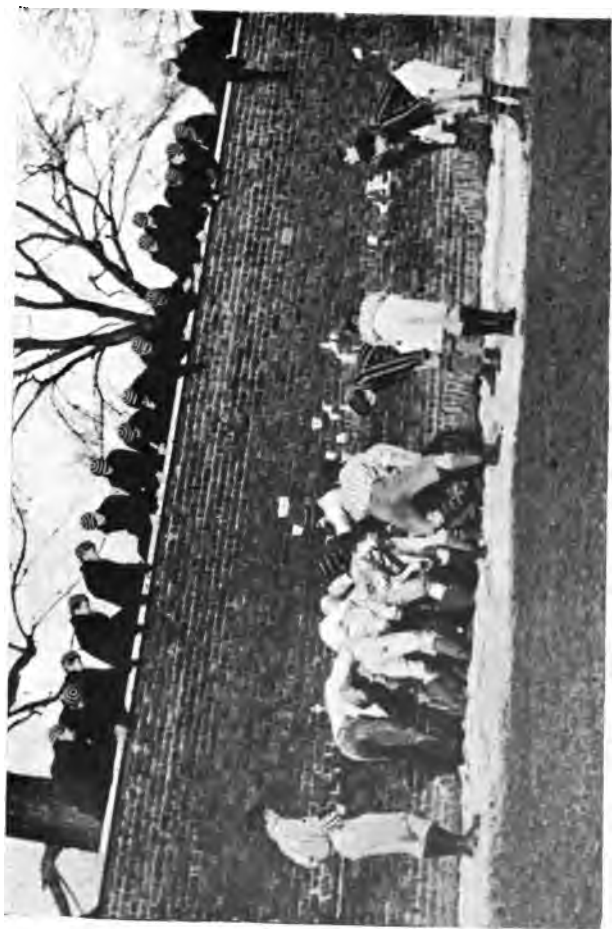
*Field Game. A Ram*



sound combination. The disposition of the team is as follows :—First the forwards—to whom the general term the “bully” is applied. These consist of the bully proper, made up of “post,” two “side-posts,” and “back-up post,” three “corners,” and a “flying man” or “fly.” “Post” is the centre man of the bully, supported on either side by a “side-post,” round whose necks he puts his arms, and at the back by “back-up post,” who clasps him round the body with both arms, and lays his shoulders to his back. All three, but especially back-up post, are chosen with a view to strength and weight, though skill with the ball in the open is not entirely neglected.

Directly the ball is rolled in, “post” must try and seize it between his feet, before the opposing post can do so. Meanwhile the two side posts and back-up post have begun to push forward. The side posts, beside pushing, must try and prevent the opposing post and side posts from getting the ball away from their own post. If a “bully” is heavier and stronger than their adversaries, they try to keep the ball in, and “walk,” *i.e.*, push backwards the opposite bully;

continuing this as long as they can, in order to gain as much ground as possible without giving the opposing forwards a chance of getting away with the ball, or enabling the behinds to kick it back. If, however, a "bully" knows that it is weaker and lighter than the opposing bully, and that it will "get walked," it must try and "turn the ball out" to the corners, of whom there are two on one side and one on the other. This prevents their losing ground, and gives the forwards a chance of "making ground." Post must therefore make a point of getting the ball first, or if anticipated, must do his very best to get it away. After a time the bully frequently breaks up automatically. A good bully will then try to form what is called a "loose bully," namely all the forwards except "fly," and one at least of the "corners" "put their heads down," get close together, and worry the ball along at their feet. A great deal of ground may be gained by good play "in the loose," and this is a most important feature of the game. Immediately outside the bully stand the corners. If the hostile side-post gets in front of the ball while it is



*The Wall Game. A Bully*





still in the bully, one of the corners must knock him back. The corners must also be ready to dash on to the ball directly it comes out of the bully, and must try to prevent the opposite "corners" and "fly" getting away. "Flying man" is posted at some little distance straight behind the bully. He is generally the fastest man on the side, and should be a good dribbler. He is quite free, and apart from the bully, and by his detached position can quickly perceive and grasp opportunities of getting the ball, and attacking.

There are three "behinds": short, long, and goals. "Short" takes up a position straight behind "fly" at such distance as seems best to him, but never very far back. To him falls most of the tackling, and a great deal of difficult kicking; he must therefore be a good tackler and a sure and neat, rather than long, kick. Pace is also important, as he has the whole width of the field to defend, and must endeavour to reach the kicks of the hostile behinds and return them before their bully can charge down.

The type of kick required is a high ball, not too long, so that his own bully can

get under it and "charge it down"; therefore the longer the ball kicked, the higher it should be. "Short" behind should also be a "neat" kick, so that when close to the back line he can drop a ball just over his bully's head without sending it behind; or if close up to his own bully, when in the field, can place it just in front of his men and not kick it to the other behinds, who would then get their kick in unmolested.

"Short" is supported by "long," whose place is directly behind, the distance varying with different players. To "long," also, pace is most important, and he should be able to kick a long ball, but, as in the case of "short," it should also be a high one. He has less tackling to do, but should be able to stop a man who has got away.

Behind him again is "goals." He differs from the goal keeper at Association in that he is not firmly fixed in goal, but acts so to speak as a second long, following him out away from his goal. He must be able to kick well and must have a cool head; for he often is left entirely alone to stop one or more of the enemy's bully who have got right away past short,

and past long, and who, by the time they reach him, have acquired a considerable momentum. He knows he is the last line of defence. If he is dodged they are almost sure to score. He must, therefore, at all costs, either stop them entirely and "clear," or, if he cannot do this, must delay them as much as possible to give his own side time to get back. His is an unenviable position. He is not allowed to handle the ball at all. But it is well worth the penalty incurred to do so in the case of a shot at goal, which he cannot otherwise stop. A bully is then formed at the place where he touched the ball.

A side scores by getting "goals" and "rouges." A "rouge" is obtained by the attacking side if one of the defenders kicks the ball over his own line, and an attacker touches it down; or by kicking the ball on to one of the opposite side so that it crosses their back line, when it must be touched down by the man who kicked it or by one of his side. If one of the other side touch the ball first, it is merely behind and is kicked off from goal. If an attacker is "bullied," *i.e.*, charged when close to the back line,

and if he at the same time kicks the ball over, and he or one of his side touch it, then again a "rouge" is scored. If an attacker is not certain of getting a goal, or is cut off from the goal by too many defenders, he makes for the back line just short of which he stops with the ball and moves towards the goal, keeping the ball close between his feet. If he is within one yard of the back line he must take care to keep the ball moving, for if he stops, a free kick is given against his side. His forwards back him up in a line behind him. The defenders try to clear the ball straight away or to rush it away.

When a "rouge" is scored the attacking side try to convert it. A bully is formed in the goal of the defending side whose "post" has the ball between his feet. Two attackers form up against each defending side post and heave forward as soon as the "ram" comes in. Three men "look out" behind the "ram," and four men form the "ram." They form up one behind the other, clasping each other round the body. They then charge into the defending bully from a short distance, always keeping in step. The

*The Wall Game*





front man tries to secure the ball at once, and by the momentum of their charge and subsequent pushing they endeavour to force the ball through the goal. If the rouge is "forced" and a goal scored the ball is kicked off by the defenders from the middle of the field. Till lately scoring was by "goals" and "rouges"—four "rouges" being equivalent to one goal. But latterly the system has been changed and the scoring is now by points. A shot goal counts 3 points, a "forced" goal 2 points, a "rouge" 1 point.

There is a school game called the Field Game, in which the best players take part after twelve (between 12 and 1.30) on every whole school day, that is, Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. School matches are played on half-holidays "after four" in the afternoon. Houses are divided into "groups" of three or four, who play their games together. Each group has two or three grounds. Games go on after twelve on whole school days for boys in Fifth Form, for Lower boys after four, and after four on half-holidays for all, and are picked up on the ground. Everybody must play at least four times a week, as a



general rule, under penalty of "being severely dealt with." Those who have their House-colours are exempt except when a side is in training ; in this case violent exercise must be taken six days a week by all. House colours are not given to everyone who plays in the House XI, unless the team reaches the Final in the Ties for the House Cup. One or two colours are generally given in any case ; three or four if the House gets through two Ties, while if the House gets into the ante-final, seven is the rule. If a boy plays for his House he is given his "shorts"—that is, he may wear shorts for football, whereas till now he has worn long flannel knickerbockers. The "House-ties" start after St. Andrew's Day (Nov. 30th) and are played for the most part in the Field. There is also a Lower Boy House Cup, which is started soon after the Half begins ; the Final is played on St. Andrew's Day. Friendly House matches and Lower Boy House matches go on all through the Half. Collegers play by themselves on their own field. Being numerically twice as strong as any House they do not enter for the House Cup. Frequent scratches,



*The Buttness (to left of steps) which was the origin of the Fives Game*



however, are brought against them, and they usually turn out a very strong side.

### THE WALL GAME

As this game must be played to be thoroughly understood, and almost baffles intelligible description in words, only a short account of its principles will be given. It is played on a strip of ground 110 yards long by just over 6 yards wide, bounded on one side by the wall, which is about 10 feet high, and on the other by a white chalk-line marked on the ground. At the Eton end of the wall is another joining it at right angles. In this end wall at about 20 yards distance is the door, 3ft. broad by 7ft. high, which acts as the goal. At the Slough end of the wall the ground is bounded by a line drawn at right angles. Opposite this line on a large elm about 30 yards from the wall a goal is painted in white lines, of the same dimensions as the door at the other end. Near each end of the ground a space is divided off, marked by white vertical lines on the wall, and here only can a "shy" be got. These spaces are called "calx," that nearest Eton being "good calx"; the one towards Slough "bad calx."

Scoring is by "shies" at goal. Of course, a man *could* kick a goal straight off by extraordinary skill or unusual luck, but this is so difficult as to be practically impossible. Scoring, therefore, is chiefly by shies. The moment a man gets a "shy" he seizes the ball and hurls it at the goal—door or tree as the case may be—but the ball must not be touched by any of the opposing side if the goal is to be scored. The "shier" must therefore be very quick and shy the ball before the other side can get close enough to the goal to intercept the ball's flight. The mark is also exceedingly small, at an awkward angle, and some distance away. Goals are therefore rare.

The sides consist of 11 men :—3 behinds, or "goals," "long," and "flying man," and 8 forwards—5 forming the bully and 3 remaining outside, in a straight line at right angles to the wall. The bully is made up of 3 "walls," who take it in turn to stand next to the wall, and 2 "seconds." Outside the bully are the remaining forwards, "third," "fourth," and "line," on the boundary line. The "walls" wear padded cloth helmets, which cover the top and back of the head,

and have flaps to guard the ears from being scraped on the wall and from the rough usage of the bully. "Wall-sacks," loose padded garments composed of woollen sweaters with sackcloth over the shoulders and arms to the elbow, cover their bodies ; thick trousers, often made of corduroy, complete the costume. The "seconds" wear "helmets" like the "walls," but knickerbockers instead of trousers. The ball is much smaller than the one used for the Field Game.

The game is started by a bully in the middle of the wall. The ball is rolled in and is not in play till it has touched the wall. The object is to keep the ball in, and "walk it down" towards the opponents' goal as far as possible. When the ball comes out of the bully all try to kick it out towards the hostile goal ; opposite the place where the ball stops a fresh bully is formed. It is the duty, therefore, of all the players to kick it out as far as possible, and the "lines" must run out to stop it rolling if it is coming towards their goal, or to guard it from being stopped by the other side. If it is kicked over the wall, a bully is formed at the place where it went over.

On no account must the ball be "cooled"—that is to say, kicked straight ahead—to the opposing "behinds," for they would get an easy kick and gain a lot of ground.

When at last the ball is rushed or kicked into "calx," a bully is formed there with a special view to "getting" or "stopping" a shy. It is of a different formation to the ordinary bully. The attackers have a "getter," a "second," and a "getting furker"; the "getter" tries to get the ball off the ground between the outside of his foot and the wall. He or one of his side must then touch it with the hand, and call out "got it," when the umpires will decide whether it is a shy or not. If it is a shy the man who touched the ball takes it and throws it at the door (he must throw it from inside calx) as quickly as possible. If it hits the door without touching any of the opposing side it is a goal.

The defenders have a "stopper," a "second," and a "stopping furker," whose duties are to prevent the getter obtaining the ball and to "furk" it out himself, that is, get it out backwards. If in good calx he kicks it out, if in bad



*Eton College Beagles : A Meet*





he touches it down behind, when a kick-off is given. If a shy is scored, but not a goal, the bully is re-formed at the place where the shy was got.

For the "bully" the game is very hot and hard work. For the outsides and behinds it is rather a cold performance as the ball is kept in so much. But the moment it comes their way the game is fast and furious for a short time. The behinds, especially flying man, also have some very exciting and rather anxious moments.

Collegers play the game continually from the moment of their coming to College. A limited number of Oppidans have a game once a week, and there is also generally a mixed wall game (half Collegers, half Oppidans) some time during the week. The chief event of St. Andrew's Day, Nov. 30, the great day of the Michaelmas term, is the Wall match between Oppidans and Collegers, which is always very keenly contested, and from its unique character, is one of the most interesting events of the football year at Eton. Three Field matches also take place, two in the morning—the Final of the Lower Boy House Cup, and a match

between Masters and Old Etonians—and one in the afternoon, between a team of Old Etonians from Oxford and one from Cambridge. This match is usually the best exhibition of Eton Football to be seen in the year.

Rugby and Association Football are also played at Eton, but only during the Lent School-time. The chief fixture of the Rugby XV is the match against Harrow; that of the Association XI the match against Westminster. A very fair standard of efficiency in these two games is usually reached, but only a comparatively small number of boys play either, fives, racquets, boating, and the Eton College hunt taking up the time of the majority.

There are two Racquet Courts, and as the game during the last few years has gained enormously in popularity in the School, there is a great run on these two Courts. Eight of the best players, decided by competition, are given their "Racquet choices," that is, they are given their colours. There are numerous competitions, chief amongst which are School Singles and Doubles, and House Doubles; also Junior Singles and Doubles for boys



*School Steeplechase. The School Jump*



under sixteen, and Lower Boy Singles, besides frequent singles and doubles handicaps. In the Public School Racquet matches, which take place in London, in the Spring, the representatives of Eton almost always put up a really good game, and have won outright more often than any School but Harrow.

Fives, like Racquets, is played the whole year round. There are over fifty courts, including two under cover. The game played is one peculiar to Eton, and the Courts consequently are of a special design. The game originated from the boys' habit in old days of knocking balls up against the wall of Chapel between two of the buttresses close to the North door in School Yard. Outside these buttresses was a platform formed by the steps leading to the Chapel, on a lower level than the platform between the buttresses. Into this space the end of the inner wall of the steps protruded. On this model the Fives Courts were built. There is, to begin with, no back wall. The floor is on two levels, the part nearer the front wall, called "Upper Courts," being higher than that further back, and sloping gradually downwards

from the front wall. There is then a low step down into "Lower Courts." From the left-hand wall on a level with the step, a buttress (representing the end of the wall of the staircase in the original Fives Court) sticks out, known as "The Pepper Box." The small square space which this part of the buttress and the step form on the floor of the Court is called "Dead Man's Hole." To place a ball into this hole requires skill; but if placed there it is usually impossible to get it up. About a third of the way up the front and side walls is "the ledge," a narrow sloping projection, over which the ball must be hit to be "up." The game is played by four players—two in Lower Courts, one "up" (serving) in Upper Courts, and one man "in holes," who stands by the Pepper-box and returns the service, after which he also goes into Upper Courts. On the front wall, about three feet from the right corner a vertical line is drawn. The man "in holes" must return the service between this line and the right side wall, or it is a "blackguard," and need not be taken by the opposite side. The server stands in Upper Courts in the angle

between the buttress and the left side-wall. The ball is served as follows. It must hit the front and right-hand walls and drop below the step, *i.e.*, in Lower Courts. The service need not be taken unless to the liking of the man "in holes"; his return, called "first cut," must be between the right side wall and the line on the back wall, as already described. It is usual to return it against the side-wall and front wall (in that order) in such a way that it goes to the server. But it may also be returned straight down to to the man in Lower Courts, or "round" to him by the right-hand wall, the front wall, the left-hand wall and out into the Court. If a ball goes over the front or side walls or pitches outside Lower Courts it is out. Fifteen points constitute a game. A match is decided usually on a rubber of five, sometimes on a rubber of three games. When "game-ball" (14) is reached the side that has fourteen points serves in a different way to that usually employed. The server stands beside the Pepper-box and must have one foot in Lower Courts. He may not raise this foot till the ball, which must hit front and side walls and



drop in Lower Courts, as during the rest of the game, has hit the ground. The man in holes, however, need not return it between the right side wall and the line on the front wall, but may hit it on to any part of the front wall. His object is to "kill" the ball against the Pepper-box or in Dead Man's Hole; or to hit it into Lower Courts in such a way that neither of his opponents can get it up.

About eight "Fives Choices" are given, the two first of whom are the two "keepers." The School play a large number of matches against Masters and Old Etonians. Matches against Harrow and Charterhouse also take place. There is a House Cup at Fives, and also a Lower Boy House Cup. There is also "School Fives" for which pairs from throughout the School enter. These pairs need not both be from one House. On the same lines as the School Fives there is Junior Fives for boys under sixteen.

The Eton College Hunt, a large and fast pack of beagles, hunt during the Michaelmas Half occasionally, and in the Lent Half regularly three times a week till towards the end of the Half. The Kennels are on Dutchman's Farm.



*Ready for the Procession of Boats*



There is a Master and three Whips, who wear white breeches and dark brown velvet hats and coats. The fields are generally large. The subscriptions are 30s. for the whole Lent Half, and 15s. if a boy joins half-way through the Half. In the Michaelmas Half the field is restricted to boys invited to go out by the Master and the Whips. Fierce controversy has for some time raged round the Eton Hunt, set on foot by the Humanitarian League, who demand its abolition on the grounds of its alleged cruelty. So far, however, it has survived the cruel onslaughts of the Humanitarians.

### SCHOOL SPORTS

The School Sports take place in the Lent Half. They are divided into School (Open) and Junior Events. As in cricket, boys under sixteen are counted as Juniors. The events are the School and Junior Steeplechase, Mile, Half-Mile, Quarter-Mile, 120 Yards Hurdle Race, and 100 Yards, School and Junior Long and High Jump, Throwing the Hammer, Putting the Weight, Throwing the Cricket Ball, and a Tug of War between Wet Bobs and Dry Bobs.

The Steeplechase, a cross-country race nearly three miles in length, and the Mile, are run off before the other events. The Steeplechase begins at the Sanatorium, on the Dorney Road, and finishes in Timbralls just after the "School Jump," a stream called "Jordan," about 16ft. broad, which has seldom been cleared by anyone getting a good place in the race. Great amusement is caused by runner after runner (sometimes several in a bunch) jumping into the stream, and keen is the delight of the newspaper photographers, who eagerly snap "Viscount this," or "the Earl of that," as he "gets a ducking in School Jump." The Mile is usually run on the grass track in Agar's Plough, but when the ground is very wet it is run along the Dorney Road, finishing by the Sanatorium. The heats of the other races are run off on fixed days, and then all the Finals are decided on one day, when Jumping, Throwing the Hammer, Putting the Weight, Throwing the Cricket Ball, and the Tug of War also take place. The Sports and all the games are managed by an Athletic Committee, consisting of the first three members of the Eight and of the XI,

the Keeper of the Field, the Master of the Eton College Hunt, and one or two others.

There is a Cup for the House which gains most points in the Sports, for which points are allotted to the leading competitors in each event, varying in number and proportion according to their relative importance. A Victor Ludorum Cup was presented a few years ago, which goes to the boy who wins most points in School Events only. Official time-keepers are procured for the day of the Finals, so that the "times" of the races may be taken as accurate, which otherwise could not be the case.

Besides the School Sports each House has sports of its own. For these there is a separate track, in order that the School track may be kept in as good a condition as possible. These sports also furnish a happy hunting-ground for photographers sent from London. They come down on the chance of culling a sprig of the nobility or two for their readers, and are often hoaxed. For when they ask to be shown So-and-so they are usually led into photographing some totally different person, very often

the informant himself. Gratuitous information of a bogus character is freely supplied, and there are many stories of very English boys being "taken" as foreign "counts" or "princes" with invented titles.



*Fourth of June: Procession of Boats. The "Monarch"*





## CHAPTER VI

### ROWING AND CRICKET

THE Lent Half also sees the opening of the boating season, which begins on March 1st with a procession of the boats up-river. Latterly this procession has been discontinued, but it was renewed again this year. Each boy wears his boating-colours. There is also a procession of boats on the Fourth of June, when the crews wear fancy dress.

There are four divisions of those who go in for rowing. These are Lower Boys, Novices, Lower Boats, and Upper Boats. "Lower Boys" are those not yet in Fifth Form and without any boating colour. "Novices" are those in Fifth Forms without any colours. "Lower Boats" are those who have the first colour to be won by Wet Bobs. For the eight best of these there is a colour called Lower Boat Choices. Then the next step is to get into the Upper Boats, for the eight best or so of whom, after those who get into The Eight, there is a colour called Upper Boat Choices. All those who have their "Boats," that is, their boating colours, are divided into ten

boats, three of which are the Upper Boats, and the remaining seven the Lower Boats. They are the *Monarch*, the *Victory*, and the *Prince of Wales* (Upper Boats), and the *Britannia*, *Dreadnought*, *Thetis*, *Hibernia*, *St. George*, *Alexandra*, and *Defiance* (Lower Boats). All these are eight-oared, except the *Monarch*, which is a ten-oar. They are clinker-built. They have the above order of precedence. The *Monarch* is stroked by the Captain of the Boats, and No. 9 in the boat is also a good oar, but the others are not brilliant oarsmen, being appointed rather for long service than for the merit of their rowing. The Second Captain of the Boats is Captain of the *Victory*, and the remaining boats are captained by the next eight boys in order of precedence in the rowing world. It does not follow because a boy has had his Lower Boats one year that he will be in the Upper Boats the next, but he may be promoted from one Lower Boat to another, or may remain in the same boat. Promotion into the boats, or from boat to boat, or from Lower Boats to Upper Boats is not automatic and dependent on age, but is gained by ability with the oar.

Most of the colours are given before the 1st of March, but are not worn till that date. One Lower Boat, the *Alexandra*, is filled in the Summer Half, and colours, such as Upper Boat Choices, Lower Boat Choices (and, of course, the Eight), and a few Lower Boat colours to Novices who have won Novice races, are given during that Half.

There are races for each of the four divisions of Wet Bobs—Sculling Races, and Pair-oar or Pulling Races—which take place during the Summer Half. The most important events are the School Pulling and the School Sculling. Besides these races for individuals, there are the House Fours, rowed at the end of the Half, the Junior House Fours, and Novice Eights. The House Fours cause great interest. They are rowed with a coxswain. The race is from above "Easy Bridge" down to Rafts. The Junior House Fours (for anyone who is not in Upper Boats) are rowed in fours also with coxswains; they are bumping races.

Novice Eights are two eight-oar crews of the more promising novices, coached by competent members of the Boats.

## THE EIGHT

In the Lent Half two Trial Eights are made up of the best oars, and after some weeks of training, a race is rowed in the Datchet Reach. The form shown in this race helps towards the choice of an eight to row at Henley. Two crews go into training in the Summer Half, the Eight itself and the "Second Eight." This ensures a number of boys being in training always ready for the Eight to draw on should any member of the latter be ill, and also provides oars if changes are needed. Practice in racing is given to the Eight by scratch crews during their period of training. The boat always enters for the Ladies' Plate at Henley, and sometimes, if it be particularly good, is entered also for the Grand. It is at present coached by Mr. R. S. de Havilland, O.U.B.C., and under his guidance this year gained a notable success by winning the Ladies' Plate, and rejoiced the hearts of all good oarsmen who favour the "English Style," by the way in which they rowed.

The great day in the boating year is the Fourth of June, when there is a procession of the boats up-river, at 6.30.



*Henley Regatta. Ladies' Challenge Plate. Eton Eight (winners)*



All the crews are in fancy dress, and wear the colours of their boat. There is then a dinner for them, after which they row to Fellows Eyot, where at about 9.30 a large crowd assembles to watch the fireworks. The river banks are lined with fairy lamps, and the whole effect is extremely pretty. As they come opposite Fellows Eyot the crews stand up in their boats and toss oars. Then they land, and the fireworks finished, the festivities are at an end.

## CRICKET

Unthinking critics are in the habit of arguing that Eton ought to be "jolly good" at cricket, by which they mean that they are, as a matter of fact, "jolly bad," or, at all events, no better than they should be, because they are the only School in England at which there are more than a thousand boys. They forget that rather less than half the boys at Eton are "Wet Bobs," and that as a matter of fact there are several Schools at which more boys play cricket than the number of Etonians who spend the afternoons of the Summer Half on Agar's Plough and Upper Club and Timbralls,



and the other playing fields. And, on the whole, though Harrow and Rugby and Winchester and Westminster, and Clifton and Uppingham, and Wellington and Repton, and the rest, have produced many fine cricketers, it would be difficult to prove that any of them can point to a better record in this respect than Eton. Certainly, if both rowing and cricket are taken into account, she stands head and shoulders above the rest.

The cricketers, or "Dry Bobs," are divided into clubs partly by age and partly by merit. All boys under sixteen are Juniors.

Owing to the difference in the time spent on work and play by Lower Boys and those in the Upper School, they are divided according to their position in the School into two clubs, Lower Sixpenny and Upper Sixpenny. In each of these clubs there are several games, the first game in each for the best players, the second for those not quite so good, and so on. (There are four or five games in both Lower and Upper Sixpenny.) Games take place on half-holiday afternoons, that is, on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays. There are nets for the



*King Edward VII Embarking on State Barge, June 13th, 1909*



first games twice a week, on whole School-days after four (*i.e.*, any time between dinner and six o'clock). Masters and one or two professionals attend and bowl to and coach the boys. Elevens of the First, Second and Third Games of Lower Sixpenny play two matches during the Half, against elevens of the corresponding games of Upper Sixpenny. There is a colour for the best XII of Upper Sixpenny, but Lower Sixpenny has none. In alternate weeks for those in Lower and Upper Sixpenny there are Junior Matches. These are matches between House Elevens composed only of Juniors (boys under sixteen). The Houses are arranged in two divisions or blocks of fourteen Houses each. (College, as it has twice the numbers of the Houses, is divided, for the sake of fairness, into two teams, more or less equal, called College A and College B, and are placed one in each block.) Each House plays all the others in its block, and then the two Houses who have won the most matches in each block play each other in the final. In the case of two Houses in one block winning an equal number of matches, an ante-final is played between them

to decide which shall play in the Final. There is a Cup for the winners, which is held for a year.

Besides Upper and Lower Sixpenny there are Lower Club, Middle Club, Second Upper Club, and Upper Club. Lower Club consists only of boys who were Juniors the year before. There are about four games. The first game includes generally some very good players, and is a great recruiting ground for the XI. Matches are played against Upper Sixpenny, Middle Club, and Second Upper Club. The ten best players besides the two keepers are given the colour at the end of the Half after the Eton v. Harrow match; the colour consists of thin white stripes on a dark blue ground.

Middle Club consists of boys who were in Lower Club the year before, and are not considered good enough to play in Upper Club or Second Upper Club. There is no colour, but matches are played with Lower Club and Second Upper Club. There are three games, the third of which goes by the name of Triangle, from the ground on which it plays, which is of a triangular shape. The cricket in this



*"Rafts"*



game is generally of a poor order, and not very keen.

Second Upper Club, for which there is a colour (white lines on a bright red ground), is made up of players not good enough for Upper Club, but too good for Middle Club. Matches are played against Middle and Lower Club. A large number of colours (about fourteen or fifteen) are usually given.

Upper Club is the game in which play the remainder of the previous year's XI and XXII and other players being tried for the XI. The game takes place on "Upper Club" till the Fourth of June, when it is transferred to Agar's Plough. The colours of the XI are light blue cap and scarf and white blazer with a thin edging of light blue. The Twenty-two, that is the twelve best players after the first XII, have a blazer and cap of broad Eton blue and black stripes of equal width. Twelfth man only gets the first XI colours if the School beats both Winchester and Harrow. Otherwise he wears the XXII colours.

Upper Club and Second Upper Club have tea in the Playing Fields, and have leave off 2.15 and 5.30 absences. If the



weather is fine the games have their tea out of doors on Poet's Walk, the path between Sheep's Bridge and Sixth Form Bench, close to "Upper Club." Hence tea itself is called Poet's Walk. For example :—"Orders," *i.e.*, bread, milk, and perhaps a pot of jam, has to be sent up to the ground by each member of the game for his tea, so that if there is going to be tea in the Playing Fields the keeper of the game writes on the list of sides put up on the notice board—"Bill off both absences : Poet's Walk." Connected with this there is a small but important ceremony at 6 o'clock, the usual time for Poet's Walk. The groundman, who prepares the tea, calls out "Water boils." Instantly all the players in the field shout back "Make the tea," and forthwith go to tea on Poet's Walk, when the game is on Upper Club, or to the Pavilion when it is on Agar's Plough.

The XI play a large number of matches against such sides as the I. Zingari, the Free Foresters, M.C.C., the Butterflies, and several others. On the Fourth of June there is an annual match against New College, Oxford. The two chief matches are those against Harrow, always

played at Lord's at the beginning of July, and Winchester, played at the end of June alternately at Eton (on Agar's Plough) and at Winchester. Boys are not given their Eleven till the week of the Harrow match, and it does not follow, because a boy plays for the School against Winchester, that he will be included in the team against Harrow. The 2nd XI also plays several matches, though not so many as the 1st XI.

After "Lord's" (the Eton v. Harrow match), House Matches begin. They are played on the knock-out system, *i.e.*, a system of elimination. They are arranged into "ties," and when a House is beaten it is out of the competition, the winning side going on into the next "ties." There is a House Cup for the winning XI.

Neither cricket nor rowing is absolutely compulsory at Eton. But the captains of Houses see that boys are not slack and idle, and if a new boy is not put in any game, they generally get him a place in one. There is great keenness about cricket, though the Final of the House Matches does not cause so much excitement as that of the House Cup at Football.

## CHAPTER VII

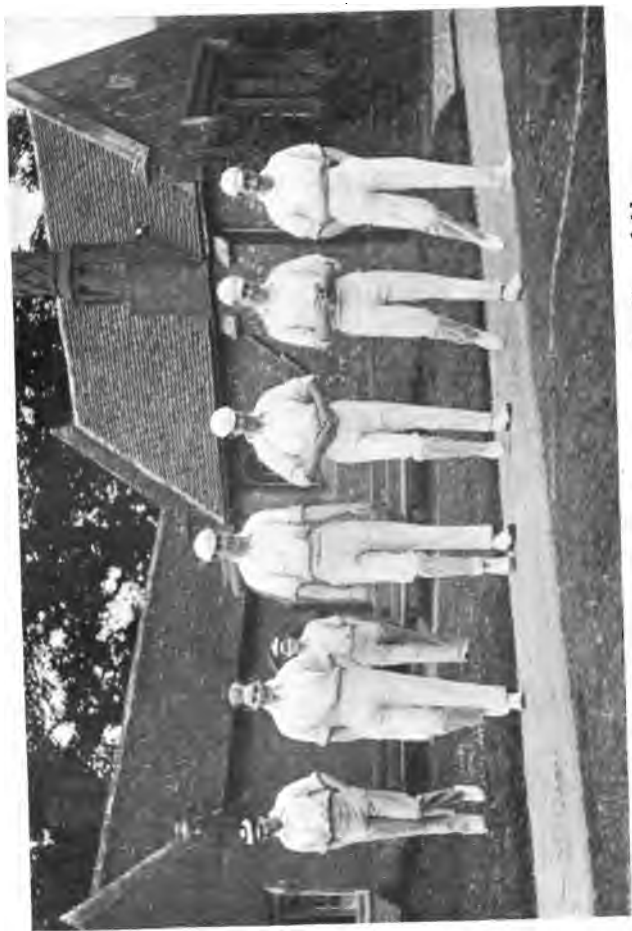
### SOME ETON PRODUCTS

AND what of the products of this gigantic organization of work and play, this old monastic trunk that was a seedling nearly five hundred years ago? Its branches have been constantly lopped and pruned, rotting fibre and poisonous fungus have been cleared away, fresh wood from time to time has been grafted on to the parent stem. Is it still a living and growing organism? How far is it a justification of the public-school system of England? By their fruits ye shall know them. Eton as a society stands or falls by the character of the boys who have passed from its discipline, in and out of school, its boy-made traditions, and its inspiration, to take their places in the world. There have been dark pages in its history, stained with boyish cruelty and boyish vice, and incompetence and careless neglect of their duty on the part of some of the masters. Sometimes its discipline has been a mockery and a

sham, sometimes its traditions have been foolish and harmful. But probably there has been no time when it was wholly lacking in inspiration, in a certain spirit of high resolve which, in spite of everything, has made its sons as a whole fine representative specimens of English manhood.

They are to be found to-day, as they have been for centuries, all over the Empire and the world, in camp and senate, in the pulpit and at the bar, in counting-houses and backwoods. Some of them have gone under—not necessarily for always—some have doubtless joined the ranks of the “idle rich,”—whom it is easier to abuse as a body than to point to as individuals. But, workers or shirkers, failures or successes, there can have been comparatively few of them in whom love and reverence for their great foundation and all that it stands for, and pride in its record and traditions, have not been, if not a permanent influence for good, at least an occasionally flickering flame of revivifying ideals. And more than that cannot be said of any school or any corporate body in England, from the national Church downwards. Through

all the stages of its existence, even in the blackest days and nights of Long Chamber, which may be taken as the standing type of all that has been ignoble and brutal and cruel in the history of the School—and what similar institution has been free from similar blots?—some of its sons have come to be known as men not only of eminent position but of high purpose and achievement. Eton, in fact, has been and is a national asset, be its detractors and its failings never so many. George Canning, who was captain of the Oppidans in 1786, before he passed on to higher and more responsible duties, was, perhaps, the first man to give utterance to the well-worn aphorism that “whatever might be the success in after life, whatever gratification of ambition might be realised, whatever triumphs might be achieved, no one is ever again so great a man as when he was a Sixth Form boy at Eton.” He, at all events, had no doubt as to the real value of English school-life. “Foreigners often ask,” he said, “by what means an uninterrupted succession of men, qualified more or less eminently for the performance of parliamentary and official duties,



*Fourth of June. Eton "Coming Out" to field*



is secured. First, I answer (with the prejudices, perhaps, of Eton and Oxford), that we owe it to our system of public schools and universities. From these institutions is derived (in the language of the prayer of our Collegiate Churches) 'a due supply of men fitted to serve their country in Church and State.' It is in the public schools and universities that the youth of England are, by a discipline which shallow judgments have sometimes attempted to undervalue, prepared for the duties of public life. There are rare and splendid exceptions, to be sure; but in my conscience I believe that England would not be what she is, without the system of public education; and that no other country can become what England is, without the advantages of such a system." These be brave words, spoken, it may be urged, more than a century ago, long before would-be reformers had begun to make their organized and doubtless in some instances beneficial attacks on the public schools. Yet there was reason in what he said, and although Eton, in common with other schools, is improved and improving, a reference to the names of some of her sons will show



that both before and after the time of Canning there has always been in training at Eton a sufficient supply of good citizens to prove that he did not speak without the book.

Look, for instance, at the names of famous Etonians of the reign of Victoria inscribed on the arcade built across the road from the New Schools to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of 1897. This is how they are classified :—

*Premiers.*—Grey, Melbourne, Derby, Gladstone, Salisbury, Rosebery.

*Party Leaders in the House of Commons.*—Northcote, Hicks-Beach, Randolph Churchill, Balfour.

*Speakers.*—Denison, Brand, Peel.

*Archbishop.*—Sumner.

*Missionary Bishops.*—Selwyn, Patteson.

*Lord Chief Justices.*—Denman, Coleridge.

*Field-M Marshals.*—Wellington, Roberts.

*Admiral of the Fleet.*—Alcester.

*Governors-General of India.*—Auckland, Ellenborough, Canning, Elgin, Dufferin, Lansdowne, Elgin and Kincardine.

*Governors-General of Canada.*—Durham, Lorne, Stanley of Preston,

*Ambassadors.*—Stratford de Redcliffe, Malet.

*Poet.*—Swinburne.

*Composer.*—Parry.

*Men of Letters.*—Hallam, Milman.

*Divine.*—Pusey.

*Man of Science.*—Herschel.

Some of these distinguished sons of the Empire were at the School under Dr. Davies, since whose time eight men beside the present Headmaster, Mr. Edward Lyttelton, have held the office—Heath, Goodall, Keate, Hawtrey, Balston, Hornby, and Warre. To take a few instances, Lord Melbourne, Lord Grey, the Duke of Wellington, and Mr. Gladstone all entered Eton before Hawtrey began, in 1840, the series of reforms which were partly the result of the criticisms which appeared in the *Edinburgh Review* in 1834, about twelve months before the retirement of Keate. The conditions of life at Eton in those comparatively unregenerate days were far from being ideal. Even to-day the most fervent admirer of the School would hesitate to say that they have reached perfection. But for our present purpose

the point is to observe that there must be something great and noble in the School and the system which can point to such a record as the above, and has produced, even in its darker days, such men as Gladstone, of whom Hallam wrote to another schoolfellow: "Whatever may be our lot I am confident *he* is a bud that will flower with a richer fragrance than almost any whose early promise I have witnessed." One may or may not agree with Gladstone's political views; but one thing is certain that he was throughout his life a splendid example of what a right-minded and high-souled Englishman may be. And some of the credit of his career, and of all the other great men in the above list, belongs to the School at which, as boys, they received their first equipment for the battle of life.

In earlier days—at all events in the quite early days—the records of the boys at Eton are much less easy to trace than in the Victorian era. The history of the School was largely the history of the headmasters and provosts, rather than of individual boys under their charge, and the earliest school-list in existence

is that of the year 1678. But long before that, from 1477 onwards, when mention is made in *The Paston Letters* of William Paston, the first Oppidan whose name is known, stray references enable us to pick out some of the Etonians who were distinguished in later life. About thirty years after Paston was at Eton we read of Richard Croke, a noted scholar and a friend of Erasmus, who became professor of Greek at Leipsig, and at about the same time of Lord Grey, a page-of-honour to Henry VIII, and of Sir Thomas Pope, the founder of Trinity College, Oxford, who remembered when he was "a young scholler at Eton the Greke tongue was growing apace; the studie of which is now a late much decaid." Apropos of which remark it may be noted that almost exactly four hundred years after the introduction of Greek into the school curriculum it began to "decay" in a different and better way, though it is not an easy matter, even if it were desirable, to uproot altogether a plant that has flourished for so long a time, and borne such generous fruit.

Amongst other men of note who were at Eton at about this time were Edward

Hall, the Chronicler, from whose works Shakespeare drew some of the material for his historical plays, Sir Thomas Sutton, who victualled the navy in the time of the Armada, and founded the Charterhouse, and Sir Humphrey Gilbert, a half-brother of Sir Walter Raleigh, and, like him, an Admirable Crichton, distinguished in most of the arts of war and peace. Henry and William Cavendish also deserve mention as early representatives of a family which has sent a large number of its sons to Eton, and, more than any of the others, Robert Glover, Lawrence Saunders, and John Hollier, for the reason that they were "faithful unto death," being burnt for their faith on Jesus Green, at Cambridge, as recorded in Foxe's *Book of Martyrs*.

In the seventeenth century a similar act of self-devotion, though not quite so fatal in its results, is recorded of the "ever memorable" John Hales, who, when the fellows, masters and scholars of Eton, Winchester, and Westminster, were required to sign the "engagement" that they would be true and faithful to the Commonwealth of England, refused, and



*Cricket on College Field*



was accordingly deprived of his fellowship. He was known as the "*bibliotheca ambulans*," and was one of the foremost scholars in Europe. Edmund Waller, the poet, another Etonian of about this time, was, apart from his learning, a man of a precisely opposite turn of mind, a sort of poetical Vicar of Bray, who supported Charles I, Cromwell, and Charles II in succession. More like John Hales in the matter of unswerving loyalty was Richard Allestree, one of the best Provosts Eton ever had, who paid many of the debts of the College out of his own pocket, joined the ante-chapel to the west end of Long Chamber by a building which was shortly afterwards superseded by the present Upper School, and fought for his king at Edgehill (as did also Lord Compton and his brothers, Sir Charles, Sir William and Sir Spencer, all three while still in their teens, and, of course, numbers of other Etonians), holding his musket in one hand and a book in the other. Another Provost of Eton, Francis Rous, had the distinction of being elected Speaker of Cromwell's Barebones Parliament, and other notable Etonians of this generation were John Pearson,



Bishop of Chester, Henry More, Sir Henry Newton, another Edgehill warrior and Paymaster-General of the Forces, Robert Boyle, son of Lord Cork and the author of *Philarethus*, and, for the names that they bore, two young Cecils, brothers of the Lord Salisbury of the day, and Philip Lytton of Knebworth, of whom his schoolmaster complained that he was "too daintie-mouthed and could eat no beefe." But possibly there were "Sock Shops" even in those hardy days.

It was at about this time, starting with the headmastership of Newborough, 1690-1711, that Eton first began to be, in the sense in which it now is, the nursery of statesmen, and the school-lists of the eighteenth century contained many names of boys who were afterwards distinguished in this way. As a sign of the class to which the parents of Eton boys belonged, it is worthy of notice that the year after the bursting of the South Sea Bubble the numbers in the School were reduced by about fifty, or twelve *per cent.* of the previous total.

The first and greatest of these eighteenth century names is that of William

Pitt, who, with his brother Thomas, entered the School in 1719. Three years later his tutor wrote to his father to say that he had made great progress, "indeed he never was concerned with a young gentleman of so good abilities, and at the same time of so good a disposition, and there is no question to be made but he will answer all your hopes." Which, presumably, he did. One of the masters during his time was one Edward Littleton, of Eton and Cambridge, who returned to the School as an assistant master, but, though he was elected a fellow, did not complete the coincidence by becoming Headmaster. George Lyttelton, Charles Pratt, who became Lord Chancellor Camden, and Henry Fox, afterwards Lord Holland, Arne, the musician, Hanbury Williams, statesman and writer, Henry Fielding, the novelist, Weston, one of the masters, who afterwards became a Bishop and gained immortality by means of the yard which his house overlooked, Thomas Morell, the lexicographer, Dr. William Battie, who founded certain scholarships at Cambridge (they had a fight, these two, when they were Sixth Form Collegers, and Morell knocked

Battie's head against the chapel wall, and Mrs. Battie smacked his face for it), Sherlock, Bishop of London, Sir Robert Walpole, his younger brother Lord Walpole, Lord Bolingbroke, Lord Townshend, Sir William Wyndham, Lord Chancellor Talbot, and the Duke of St. Albans were some of the other well-known men who were "bred at Eton" during this period.

Under Dr. George, who became Headmaster in 1728, we get yet another group of distinguished men, Jacob Bryant, the scholar, Horace Walpole, Thomas Gray, the poet, and their friends Richard West and Thomas Ashton, Admiral Lord Howe, and the Marquis of Granby. A little later, under Sumner, came Lord Cornwallis, Lord North, Sir James Mansfield, the Lord Chief Justice, Foster, who became in his turn Headmaster of Eton in 1765, and had to deal with the famous rebellion and the migration to Maidenhead, and two Harrow Headmasters, Sumner and Thackeray. Next, under Barnard (1754), whom Horace Walpole called the Pitt of masters, we find Charles James Fox, Sir James Macdonald, William Windham, a friend of Dr. Johnson and Secretary of State for War and for the



*Boys Listening to Proclamation at Windsor Bridge*



Colonies, and Thomas and Henry Dampier, who were respectively Bishop of Ely and a judge of the King's Bench. Amongst Foster's rebellious pupils were Lord Grenville, the future Prime Minister, Lord Grey, Lord Holland, Sir Vicary Gibbs, Chief Justice of Common Pleas, Richard Porson, of the marvellous memory, and Charles Simeon, the divine. Davies was the next Headmaster, and amongst his pupils were the Duke of Wellington and his brother Lord Wellesley, a distinguished Eton scholar, George Canning (who, with John Hookham Frere, edited the *Microcosm*, the first Eton school paper), Lord Melbourne, and John Keate, the famous Headmaster, who himself had many boys under him who were to win fame in after life, some of whose names appear in the list quoted at the beginning of this chapter. Amongst Etonians of the end of the eighteenth and the beginning of the nineteenth century further notable men are Hawtrey, the Headmaster, Bishop Lonsdale, Stratford Canning, the future Lord Metcalfe, who was distinguished at school for his extensive private reading, which included Ariosto, Gibbon, Voltaire and Rousseau,

for riding a camel in the High Street, and for founding a tea-club, "mad" Shelley, the poet, who was badly bullied by his schoolfellows, William Spottiswoode, afterwards President of the Royal Society, who was expelled from Eton when quite a small boy for carrying squibs in his pocket, and went to Harrow, Sir William Herschell and Sir J. Shaw Lefevre, both of whom were Senior Wranglers, and Kinglake, the historian.

Of course many other famous names might be added to this list, even without reckoning Etonians who are still living, such as Lord Minto and Lord Curzon, who have risen to high position amongst the foremost citizens of the Empire. But enough has been said to show how great is the heritage that has been handed down to the Eton boys of to-day and the generations to come, a heritage so splendid in its past, so tremendous in its wide-reaching power and its responsibility for the future of the race, that from the Sixth Form down to the youngest and weakest Lower Boy no one at Eton ought ever to be able to say "*Floreat Etona*," without resolving so to rule his life as to make the prayer a solemn and elevating reality.

## CARMEN ETONENSE

SONENT voces omnium  
liliorum florem,  
digna prosequentium  
laude Fundatorem !  
Benefacti memores  
concinamus, qualis  
in alumnos indoles  
fuerit regalis.

Donec oras Angliæ  
Alma lux fovebit,  
Floreat Etona !  
Floreat ! florebit.

Stet domus Collegii  
disciplinæ sedes,  
donec amnis regii  
unda lambet ædes !  
Crescat diligentia  
studium Musarum !  
crescat cum scientia  
cultus litterarum !

Donec oras Angliæ  
Alma lux fovebit,  
Floreat Etona !  
Floreat ! florebit.

Nostra sint primordia  
cum virtute pudor,  
fides et concordia,  
aemulusque sudor !



Jungat unus filios  
amor erga Matrem !  
cum magistris pueros  
ut cum fratre fratrem !  
Donec oras Angliæ  
Alma lux fovebit,  
Floreat Etona !  
Floreat ! florebit.

Obsequamur regibus,  
modo jungant reges  
libertatem legibus,  
libertati leges !  
Lege sic solutior  
leges amet certas,  
sic parendo tutior  
nostra stet libertas !  
Donec oras Angliæ  
Alma lux fovebit,  
Floreat Etona !  
Floreat ! florebit.

Justam ludus vindicet  
cum labore partem !  
dulce foedus societ  
cum Minerva Martem !  
Sive causa gloriæ  
pila, sive remus,  
una laus victoriæ—  
Matrem exornemus !

*Absence in Weston's Yard*





Donec oras Angliæ  
Alma lux fovebit,  
Floreat Etona !  
Floreat ! florebit.

Mores Etonensibus  
traditos colamus !  
traditos parentibus  
posteris tradamus !  
Posterique posteris,  
quotquot ibunt menses,  
tradant idem seculis  
carmen Etonenses.

Donec oras Angliæ  
Alma lux fovebit,  
Floreat Etona !  
Floreat ! florebit.

THE END



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